
◆ The Lamoine Quarterly ◆

Volume 6 Issue 4

Published Quarterly by the Lamoine Town Office

April, 2001

Town Election Held Despite Blizzard

(Lamoine) — With predictions for the storm of the century looming, it seemed like voters in Lamoine probably had a pretty good dose of cabin fever and ventured out into the weather to cast their votes on March 6th. The storm was pretty intense to the west of here, but left only about 3-inches of snow in Lamoine, though visibility was difficult at times. When the polls closed, 204 residents had cast ballots in the election, roughly an 18-percent turnout. And with only one referendum question and one race for elected office, the turnout was better than in some years with more contentious issues on the ballot.

The voting was as follows:

Selectman	Votes
Luck, Christopher	86
Spruce, Thomas	114

School Committee	
Boynton, Lori	161
Perkins, Faith	138

Cheerleaders Claim State Championship

(Lamoine) — Twelve young ladies ranging from 5th grade to 8th grade have brought a state championship trophy home to Lamoine for their performance at the State Cheerleading Tournament in Bangor on March 10th. It capped a remarkable winter sports season for athletes

Brewer in anticipation of the storm. It still took quite a while to dig out the vans from the deep snow and creep across the river to the auditorium.

When it came time to perform, the squad was well prepared. They pulled off a nearly flawless performance, and scored a



State Champions! Back Row (l-r) Sarah Marckoon, Malerie Lockhart, Ashley Budwine, Katie Good, Coach Cori-Lynn Noddin, Casandra Engstrom. Front Row: Alicia Bentivoglio, Stephanie Walls, Paige Boynton, Sarah Burnett, Stephanie Lockhart, and Kim Tupper

Assessor Fowler, E. Jane	179
Clerk/Collector Brodie, Hubene	192
Site Plan Review Ordinance Yes	127
No	71

Several people received write-in votes in the school committee and assessor's column, but no one received more than two write in votes.

The only contested race, that for Selectman, was won by Tom Spruce. He replaces Arthur Alley who decided to retire after three terms on the board.

Faith Perkins replaces Kathy Stanley on the School Committee. Mrs. Stanley decided not to run for re-election.

According to town ordinance, Mr. Spruce and Ms. Perkins both start service immediately.

Re-elected were town clerk and tax collector Hubene Brodie and tax assessor Jane Fowler. Mrs. Brodie's term is one year, ending June 30, 2002. Mrs. Fowler will serve 3-years, ending June 30, 2004.

The Site Plan Review Ordinance won easy approval among voters.

Separate stories on the winning candidates and the Site Plan Review Ordinance and the open town meeting are inside this issue.

from the Lamoine Consolidated School which saw the girls and boys basketball teams and the same cheering squad sweep the championships in Union 92.

The states had their challenges, perhaps the biggest being actually getting to Bangor Auditorium. The day of the competition brought a foot of snow to Eastern Maine, and that kept several area squads from reaching Bangor to compete. Cheering coach Cori-Lynn Noddin arranged to have the girls and several sets of parents spend the night at a motel in

64 according to the judges. That was far and away the best score to bring home the championship trophy and individual gold medals. Finishing 2nd in the division was Life Christian Academy in Ellsworth which had some Lamoine residents on their squad. In the spirit of good sportsmanship, the LCA displayed a congratulatory sign at their facility on Route Three

The Selectmen have issued a nice certificate to the cheering squad for its first ever state Middle School title.

Gravel Deal Signed, Permits Sought

(Lamoine) — Despite opposition from some residents, the Lamoine Board of Selectmen signed a three year contract with Doug Gott & Sons, Inc. to sell gravel from a portion of the lot that includes the closed landfill. The agreement will bring \$200,000 into the town coffers over 3-years for the rights to mine 160,000 yards of gravel.

The opposition came from a group of residents who say they are concerned about the impact of the gravel removal on the groundwater quality in Lamoine. They contend the gravel sits over an aquifer recharge area, and removal of that layer of dirt will diminish the natural filtering of rain and snow the gravel performs. In considering the matter, Selectmen

Chair Glenn Crawford said the amount being mined from the town owned land is miniscule on a comparative scale. Mr. Crawford also said that Gott was the only company with access to the gravel, as they had purchased a lot on the back end of the town owned land, and already owned the lot on the front end. The town had sold Gott gravel from the front end several years before.

The matter is now in the hands of the Planning Board which met to consider an initial application submission on March 13th. The Board found the application to be incomplete, and went over with the Selectmen and Gott what additional information is needed. The project will also have to meet the new Site Plan Review Ordinance.

Open Town Meeting Approves Budget

(Gravel Sale Debate Highlights Discussion)

(Lamoine) — The annual open town meeting drew another large crowd with over 170 voters checking in at the door. Two issues seemed to draw voters; the authority of the Selectmen to sell gravel and the budget.

Open meeting moderator Fred Ehrlenbach got his feet wet in Lamoine in a hurry, as the 2nd article to be dealt with was whether to re-grant authority to the Selectmen to sell gravel from the landfill lot. There was a great deal of debate, much of it focused on the recent sale (see page 1) and whether such events should happen under Selectmen authority or whether they should receive town meeting approval. After a close hand vote to move the question, a written ballot was requested, and the vote against re-granting the authority to the Selectmen, 88 to 72 took away the authority until at least the next town meeting.

The other hot issue was the school budget. The School Committee and Budget Committee differed by \$15,000 for personnel. That difference was expanding music into a full time program

from the current half-time offering. Budget Committee member Sheryl Davis called it a fiscally irresponsible proposal that would not enhance academics. School Committee member Kathy Stanley presented arguments correlating a strong music program with better academic performance. The school budget passed with the money included for the full time program.

Cut from the budget was a proposal from the school committee to establish a tuition fund for \$30,000 to take care of emergency tuition expenditures to secondary schools. Town Treasurer Stu Marckoon argued that if it's approved, the money would have to be raised in property taxes in the next year. Selectmen argued that when the school has needed extra money for tuition, it could ask town meeting for the funding, and they have never been turned down.

A minor adjustment from the Budget Committee recommendation was made in one social service line, and a \$5,000 fund for police protection was eliminated for this year.

Spruce Elected Selectman

Perkins Wins School Board Seat

Public Safety Committee Members Sought

(Lamoine) — What level of police protection is appropriate for Lamoine? That was the root question of a debate at this year's town meeting, and no one had a definitive answer. Many had stories of close calls with speeding cars or recent burglaries in the neighborhood or trespassers.

The town meeting instructed the Selectmen to form a committee to find out what the needs of the town are in regard to police protection, and what options are available.

The Selectmen invite anyone interested in helping to contact the town office (667-2242) by Mid-April so the committee can get up and running. The goal is to report back with a plan by November in time for the 2002/2003 budget season.

Selectman Alley Retires

(Lamoine) — After serving 24-years in the Coast Guard, many of them as the commanding officer at the base in his hometown of Jonesport, Arthur Alley though he'd retired. Wrong. He opened a small interior decorating business and it

(Lamoine) — In a close race, Tom Spruce won election to the Lamoine Board of Selectmen for 3-years. The 46-year old Spruce lives on Lamoine Beach Road, and is the father of an 18-year old daughter, Kaela and twin 6th graders Cody and Sam. He's married to the former Lori McMillan, and they live in the home she grew up in.

Spruce works as a heavy equipment and crane operator for EL Shea in Ellsworth, a job he's done for 27-years, including 7-years in the United States Navy and Coast Guard.

Mr. Spruce said he wanted to run for Selectman because he believes everyone should perform some community service. He's served on the town's Ballfield Committee and briefly with the former Parks & Recreation Committee, and has been active with the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Little League. He says he hopes to see the town through the tough issues ahead including gravel and ground-water issues, and the physical plant needs of the Lamoine Consolidated School.

Mr. Spruce grew up in Old Town, and has an interesting family connection. His sister, Tabitha, is a well-regarded author who happens to be married to novelist Stephen King. The King's foundation made very generous contributions to the school library and to the ballfield project in the past year.

(Lamoine) — Faith Perkins starts her 3-year term on the Lamoine School Committee in April after her election at town meeting. She ran unopposed for one of the two seats.

Ms. Perkins, 45, has been a Lamoine resident since 1993, moving here from the Machias area. She and her husband, Jim Crotteau live on Douglas Highway at Lamoine Corner. Their daughter Emily is a 4th grade student at the Lamoine Consolidated School.

Ms. Perkins grew up in Western Massachusetts and has a Masters Degree in Education from the University of Maine, Orono. She is presently employed as a developmental therapist for infants to five-years old at Downeast Therapy Associates in Trenton.

Ms. Perkins is active as a leader with the Girl Scouts, singing with the Acadia Choral Society and in service with A Kid's Place, a group that deals with special needs children and their families.

Ms. Perkins says she ran for school committee after observing a number of rough years for the school, and now seeing that the community, administration and teachers seem to be working well together, she wants to make sure that positive relationship continues. She says she wants to see the school continue to make improvements in the education process.

passed the expectations he and his wife Mary had at succeeding. He also ran for Selectman and served 3-successful terms.

Mr. Alley decided not to run for another term, but says he will miss it. He was honored at town meeting for that service with a certificate from the new board, and Town Clerk Hubene Brodie (a childhood buddy) brought a cake to share with the townspeople. THANKS FOR THE SERVICE!

Land Sold

(Lamoine) — Town meeting gave approval to sell a piece of land at the head of the Jordan River to Richard and Donna Fennelly. The Fennellys had paid taxes on the land many years ago only to discover it wasn't theirs. The sale will square up their lot, and put a piece of land back on the tax rolls. They paid \$500 for the land. Mrs. Fennelly says they cannot build on it. The Board of Selectmen issued a quit-claim deed to the Fennelly's in late March.

Town Report Correction

The 2000 Annual Report dedicated to Elmer "Spud" Davis incorrectly listed him as a former Road Commissioner. It should read he was the Building Inspector. The report also indicated the town office was open Sundays. It is not, but is open the first and last Saturdays of the month.

New Members Named To Planning and Appeals Boards

(Lamoine) — Interest was at an all time high for service to the Planning Board and the Board of Appeals after several seats opened up. The Board of Selectmen had many qualified applicants to choose from and all said the choices were difficult, and urged those not picked to try again when other openings might occur.

Named to the Planning Board to take **Karen Eaton's** place was Appeals Board member **Joan Bragdon**. Mrs. Bragdon is a resident of Marlboro Beach Road and a former tax assessor who has been keenly interested in town affairs for many years. Planning Board member **Robert Sharkey** submitted his resignation as well, and taking his place is **Michael Garrett** of Great Ledge Road. Mr. Garrett is a veteran of 12-years of service on the Concord, NH city council, and a former vice principal at a New

Hampshire High School. During his service on the city council,

Garrett said he also served on the Concord Planning Board.

Taking Mrs. Bragdon's place on the Board of Appeals is **John Larson** of Seal Point Road. Mr. Larson also has a great deal of experience on a planning board, having served in a Connecticut community. He is employed by a small telecommunications company and recently constructed a home in Lamoine. Filling an unfilled alternate seat on the Board of Appeals is **John Wuorinen** of Lamoine Beach Road. A veteran of the Castine Board of Appeals, Mr. Wuorinen has been active on recent gravel issues.

All the candidates said they would work hard to make sure the ordinances of Lamoine are followed in any deliberations they must make. Those not chosen remain on the waiting list.

New Aquifer Maps Issued By State

(Augusta) — With all the discussion about groundwater and gravel, and with the Planning Board working on an aquifer protection modification to the Land Use Ordinance, the Maine Geological Survey timing couldn't be better. New maps

showing the major aquifers of Maine came out in mid-March. Lamoine received two of the three maps completed by the state agency, and the third, just recently completed, was on its way. They should prove very useful.

Gravel Forum Draws Crowd

(Ellsworth) — After a blizzard in February pushed things back a week, a panel put together by the Lamoine Citizens Association explained in great detail how the groundwater and gravel deposits are situated in Lamoine. Dr. Harold Borns of the University of Maine, Andy Tolman of the Department of Human Services, and Paula Cole of the Maine Rural Water Association spoke to about 20-people at Ellsworth City Hall.

The panel said there are no exact answers on how to protect groundwater from potential pollution sources. There is also no definitive answer regarding how much of a layer of gravel is needed above the groundwater before it is damaged. At least one panelist said the town's ordinances seem to be fairly good when it comes to groundwater protection measures. Ms. Cole also said that while ordinances are important, they are also not the best method for protecting groundwater resources. She suggested public and protective purchases of critical areas above groundwater sources are the best way to guarantee that the resource below might be protected. Mr. Tolman said statewide testing programs might yield some better information.

Town Meeting Approves Site Plan Review Ordinance

(Lamoine) — By a 56-vote margin, voters gave overwhelming approval to the new Site Plan Review Ordinance in Lamoine. The new ordinance takes effect 30-days after its March 6th adoption, or on April 6, 2001.

The Site Plan Review Ordinance is designed to give the Planning Board tools to deal with large development projects. That includes non-residential buildings over 2,000 square feet in size, multi-family buildings, and earth moving activities that exceed 10,000 square feet over a 5-year period. The Planning Board will process and decide on all Site Plan Review applications.

Over the past few years, some applications would have been subject to the Site Plan Review ordinance, especially applications to open new gravel pits. The information requested under the ordinance does not differ significantly from the present gravel ordinance, but the format would be slightly changed.

The Planning Board worked on the new ordinance for roughly two years before putting it out to vote.

Few Building Permits Issued

(Lamoine) — As is usual during the dead of winter, the building permit issues were relatively few and far between. Code Enforcement Officer John Holdsworth reports the following permits issued:

Nbr	Name	Type
1		
2		
3		
4		

A reminder that before starting any building project, a permit must be obtained

Permit Issued For New Pier

(Lamoine) — The Lamoine Planning Board approved a Shoreland Zoning permit for a new pier at a Point View Lane property. Douglas Beal applied for the permit on behalf of property owner Alphonse Stroobants.

In March, the board found the pier application complete and voted unanimously in favor of issuance. The applicant had come back with more information upon the board's request.

Lamoine's Harbor Master, Bill Pinkham, reported to the board the pier would not significantly impact navigation in the Skillings River.

Planning Board Works On Ordinances

(Lamoine) — An aquifer protection zone to be added to the Lamoine Building and Land Use Ordinance is one of the changes that may be proposed to Town Meeting, possibly as soon as November. The board, reacting to requests to write in stronger protections for critical groundwater resources, is working on several changes to improve the ordinance last updated in 1999.

The Planning Board is also

looking into other changes to help clean up some oversights and definitions. One of those oversights was the omission from the road frontage requirements that waives the 200' minimum if the proposed building is set back greater than 200 feet from the road it's on.

The board is also working to develop a more definitive zoning map. The College of the Atlantic will be employed to produce the maps this spring.

The Lamoine Quarterly

April 2001

Inside this issue:

Town of Lamoine
606 Douglas Highway
Lamoine, ME 04605

